

Fiscal Estimate - 2003 Session

☒ Original ☐ Updated ☐ Corrected ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number **03-2455/1**

Introduction Number **AB-326**

Subject

Allowing funeral directors and operators of funeral establishments to copy death certificates

Fiscal Effect

State:

- ☐ No State Fiscal Effect
☐ Indeterminate
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations | | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs |

Local:

- ☐ No Local Government Costs
☐ Indeterminate
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
<input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others
<input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | |

Fund Sources Affected

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

☐ GPR ☐ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEGS

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Date

9/22/2003

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 9/22/2003

LRB Number	03-2455/1	Introduction Number	AB-326	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Allowing funeral directors and operators of funeral establishments to copy death certificates					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Current law allows funeral directors, under certain circumstances, to sell funeral services with the proceeds of trust funds or life insurance made available to the seller upon the death of the purchaser. To make these proceeds available, a copy of the death certificate is required. However, current law generally prohibits the copying of a death certificate by any agency except the state vital records office and local registrars of deeds. Some financial institutions and state and local government agencies are also allowed to make copies. Under this bill, funeral directors would also be permitted to make certified copies of death certificates to use for certain legal financial transactions.

The Department's vital records office and local registrars of deed are authorized to sell copies of certified vital records and to charge a fee for those copies. The fee for death certificates is \$7 for the original copy and \$3 for each subsequent copy. Instead of buying the copies from the Department or local registrars, funeral directors would be allowed to make their own certified copies under this bill.

There are approximately 47,000 deaths annually statewide. Almost all copies of death certificates are issued by local registrars rather than the state. According to a survey conducted by the Department in 2002, local registrars report that they sell an average of 10 certified copies of death certificates for each death. Of these, it is estimated that at least 3 death certificates per death are sold to funeral directors. Under this bill, these 3 death certificates will no longer be purchased, since the funeral director will be able to use photocopies to authorize the transfer of money from insurance policies and savings accounts. If this occurs, local registrars will lose \$423,000 in revenue annually (3 copies x 47,000 x \$3) as a result of this bill.

The Department's Vital Records Office will be required to provide informational material and training to funeral directors and financial institutions regarding this legislation. There will be one-time costs of \$2,000 to provide this information and training.

As the number of agencies allowed to make certified copies of vital records increases, the chance of fraud and record abuse also increases. Vital record fraud is costly to individuals who are involved in legal settlements that rely on these records and to the state, which has the responsibility of preventing vital record fraud. Any increase in fraud resulting from this bill may increase costs to the state in the form of fraud investigation and prosecution. It is not possible to estimate the extent of these increased costs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2003 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect



Original



Updated



Corrected



Supplemental

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Subject	
Allowing funeral directors and operators of funeral establishments to copy death certificates	
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):	
\$2,000 GPR in training costs	
II. Annualized Costs:	Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:
	Increased Costs Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category	
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$
(FTE Position Changes)	
State Operations - Other Costs	
Local Assistance	
Aids to Individuals or Organizations	
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds	
GPR	
FED	
PRO/PRS	
SEG/SEG-S	
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)	
	Increased Rev Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes	\$
GPR Earned	
FED	
PRO/PRS	
SEG/SEG-S	
TOTAL State Revenues	\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT	
	State Local
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$ -423,000
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